

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**March 27, 2002**  
EOB 12<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Ronald Ogens, Chair  
Commissioner Paul Sterling  
Assistant Chief Randy Wheeler  
District Chief John Gallo, DFRS (Alt.)  
Chief Craig Baker, Burtonsville VFD (Alt.)

OTHERS PRESENT

Gordon Aoyagi, Fire Administrator  
Chief Roger Strock, DFRS  
Chief David Dwyer, DVFRS  
A/C Roger McGary, DFRS  
A/C Robert Allwang, DFRS  
A/C Mike Love, DFRS  
D/C Steve Lohr, DVFRS  
Fred Welsh, DVFRS  
James Magruder, GWGFD  
Nick Venuto, Local 1664  
Neil Shorb, MCFRS  
George Giebel, MCFRS  
Beth Feldman, MCFRS  
Connie Robinson, MCFRS

**Call to Order – Chair Ogens**

The Operations Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ogens at 7:30 am in the EOB 12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.

**Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2002**

**Amend 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, first page to show Deputy Chief Mike Kelley, not District Chief. A MOTION was made by Assistant Chief Wheeler to approve the Operations Committee minutes from the February 27, 2002 meeting as amended. SECONDED by Chief Baker. PASSED unanimously.**

**Truck 2 Status**

At the February Operations Meeting there was a discussion regarding a letter from Lt. Jones of DFRS who is stationed at Takoma Park indicating that Truck 2 was equipped with the minimum inventory for rescue engines as approved by the FRC and is available to be dispatched to PIC's. Since this request did not originate from either the Chief or President of TPVFD, Commissioner Ogens requested Chief Dwyer to follow up with Chief Jarboe regarding the intent of this letter.

In a memorandum to Commissioner Ogens from Chief Jarboe dated March 4, 2002, the Takoma Park VFD is now officially requesting that Truck 2 be placed on all calls where the unit will be the closest available with extrication capabilities as Truck 2 meets or exceeds minimum approved equipment inventory for rescue engines.

Staff spoke to Chief Jarboe to clarify and determine that the intent of the memo was to designate Truck 2 to be dispatched on PIC's with one reported pinned or trapped when it is closer than the nearest rescue squad, which would also be dispatched to the incident. This procedure is currently used for dispatching Truck 12.

Commissioner Ogens advised that the committee can decide to a) wait until the Rescue Squad Workgroup completes its study, and based on their recommendation, take action regarding Truck 2; or b) approve the request to dispatch Truck 2 on a temporary basis until the Rescue Squad study is completed.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to recommend to the FRC the dispatch of Truck 2 on PIC's w/one trapped or pinned when it is closer than the nearest rescue squad. The response of Truck 2 would be in addition to a rescue squad.**

It was discussed that the Rescue Squad Workgroup is currently reviewing the configuration of vehicle extrication resources for the MCFRS, and that this request should be referred to that group for review.

District Chief Gallo stated his concerns regarding the shortage of rescue service in District One, and the need to have personnel properly trained to operate extrication equipment. He recommends that no further action be taken on this issue until the Rescue Squad Workgroup completes its study.

**Commissioner Sterling withdrew his motion.**

It was also discussed that the Silver Spring VFD had made a prior request to dispatch Truck 19 on PIC's as it also was equipped for vehicle extrication.

It was the consensus of the Operations Committee to refer the TPVFD request to the Rescue Squad Workgroup to be addressed as part of that report.

#### **Dispatch to Working Structure fires in Non-Hydranted Areas**

In response to recent large structure fires in areas of the County without fire hydrants and the need to enhance response, the Fire Administrator issued Directive 02-05 on March 15, 2002 which established the response of a Water Supply Task Force, consisting of two engines, two tankers, and two command officers in addition to the original structure fire assignment, which taskforce is to be dispatched upon indication from any source of a working fire. This directive was issued pending future changes to the Communications Manual and recommended to the FRC for action.

District Chief Lohr advised that the Water Supply Task Force response was a recommendation in the WSSIWG report, with the exception of adding one additional engine and one command officer based on recent experience of needing additional resources at both the fill and dump sites.

The Operations Committee is requested to make a recommendation to the FRC to amend Appendix D of the Communications Manual to incorporate the response changes as outlined in the Fire Administrator's Directive. There was discussion regarding the advantages and need to make this change.

**A MOTION was made by Chief Baker to recommend to the Fire and Rescue Commission that it amend Appendix D of the Communications Manual to implement the changes in response to working structures fires in areas of the County without fire hydrants as specified in Directive 02-05. MOTION SECONDED by Assistant Chief Wheeler, and PASSED unanimously.**

The update by District Chief Lohr, which had been requested by A/C Carr on the status of implementing the WSSIWG report, has been postponed until the next Operations Committee meeting.

**A MOTION was made by Assistant Chief Wheeler to adjourn. SECONDED by District Chief Gallo. PASSED unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.